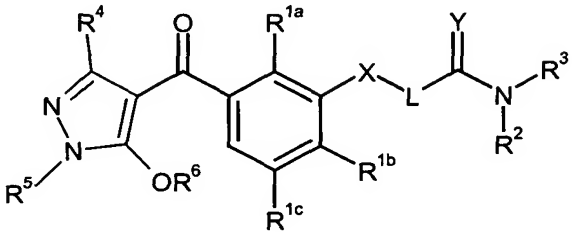
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula (I) or salt thereof



(I)

in which the radical and the indices have the following definitions:

X is O, $S(O)_n$, N-H or N-R^2;

L is a straight-chain or branched (C_1-C_6)-alkylene, (C_2-C_6)-alkenylene or (C_2-C_6)alkynylene chain substituted by w radicals from the group consisting of halogen, cyano, and nitro and by v radicals R^2;

Y is oxygen or sulfur;

R^{1a}, R^{1b}, R^{1c} independently are each hydrogen, mercapto, nitro, halogen, cyano, thiocyanato,
(C_1-C_6)-alkyl-CO-O, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$S(O)_n$-O, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$S(O)_m$, (C_1-C_6)-haloalkyl-$S(O)_m$, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-$S(O)_m$, di-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl-N-SO_2, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-SO_2-NH, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-NH-CO, di-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl-N-CO, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-SO_2-[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]amino, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-CO-[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]amino, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-O-CH_2, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$S(O)_n$-CH_2, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-NH-CH_2, 1,2,4-triazol-1-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-1-yl-CH_2,
or are each (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl-$(Y)_p$, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl-$(Y)_p$, (C_3-C_9)-cycloalkyl-$(Y)_p$, (C_3-C_9)-cycloalkenyl-$(Y)_p$, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-(C_3-C_9)-cycloalkyl-$(Y)_p$ or (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-(C_3-C_9)-cycloalkenyl-$(Y)_p$ each of which is substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro and halogen;

R^2, R^3 independently are each hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkynyl, $(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkenyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl-$(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl-$(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenyl-$(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenyl-$(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkynyl-$(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkynyl-$(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkenyl, straight-chain or branched $[O$-$C(R^6)_2]_w$-$[O$-$C(R^6)$-$_2]_x$-R^6, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl-aryl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenyl-aryl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkynyl-aryl, straight-chain or branched $[O$-$C(R^6)_2]_w$-$[O$-$C(R^6)_2]_x$-aryl, the last 16 of the abovementioned radicals being substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro and halogen,

or are each aryl, heterocyclyl or heteroaryl each substituted by v radicals consisting of the group of cyano, nitro, halogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl-$(Y)_p$ and halo-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl-$(Y)_p$,

or

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom linking them form a 5- or 6-membered saturated, partly unsaturated or fully unsaturated ring which contains n heteroatoms from the group consisting of oxygen and nitrogen and is substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro, halogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl-$(Y)_p$ and halo-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl-$(Y)_p$,

or

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom linking them form a ring from the group consisting of benzothiazole, benzoxazole, benzopyrazole and benzopyrrole which is substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro, halogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$(Y)_p$, and halo-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl-$(Y)_p$;

R^4 is hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or $(C_1$-$C_6)$-haloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkyl or $(C_3$-$C_9)$-halocycloalkyl;

R^5 is $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, halo-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_9)$-cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_9)$-halo-cycloalkyl, or is phenyl substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, cyano, $(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkyl, halo-$(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkoxy and halo-$(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkoxy;

R^6 is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkylcarbonyl, halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkylcarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkoxycarbonyl, halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkylaminocarbonyl, halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkylaminocarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)-dialkylaminocarbonyl, halo-(C_1-C_6)-dialkylaminocarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkylsulfonyl, halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkylsulfonyl,
or is benzyl, benzoyl, benzoylmethyl, phenoxycarbonyl or phenylsulfonyl each of which is substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_4)-alkyl, halo-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, (C_1-C_4)-alkoxy and halo-(C_1-C_4)-alkoxy;

m	is 1 or 2;
n	is 0, 1 or 2;
p	is 0 or 1;
v	is 0, 1, 2 or 3;
w and x	independently are each 0,1, 2, 3 or 4; w and x should not both be zero at the same time.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein
R^2, R^3 independently are each hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_9)-cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_9)-cycloalkenyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-(C_3-C_9)-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-(C_3-C_9)-cycloalkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl-(C_3-C_9)-cycloalkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl-(C_3-C_9)-cycloalkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl-(C_3-C_9)-cycloalkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl-(C_3-C_9)-cycloalkenyl, straight-chain or branched $[O-C(R^6)_2]_w-[O-C(R^6)_{-2}]_x-R^6$, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-aryl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl-aryl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl-aryl, straight-chain or branched $[O-C(R^6)_2]_w-[O-C(R^6)_2]_x$-aryl, the last 16 of the abovementioned radicals being substituted by the radicals consisting of cyano, nitro, and halogen,
aryl substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro, halogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$ and halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$
or
R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom linking them form a 5- or 6-membered saturated, partly unsaturated or fully unsaturated ring which contains n heteroatoms from the group consisting of oxygen and nitrogen and

is substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro, halogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$ and halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$,

or

R^2 and R^3 together with the hydrogen atom linking them form a ring from the group consisting of benzothiazole, benzoxazole, benzopyrazole and benzopyrrole which is substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro, halogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$ and halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Y is oxygen and R^{1c} is hydrogen.

4. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

X is O or $S(O)_n$;

R^{1a}, R^{1b} independently are each F, Cl, Br, CH_3, CH_3S, CH_3O, CH_3SO_2, $C_2H_5SO_2$, $CF_3CH_2SO_2$, cyclopropyl-SO_2, CF_3 or NO_2;

R^2 , R^3 independently are each hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_9)-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-(C_3-C_9)-cycloalkyl, the last 5 radicals being substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro, and halogen, or are aryl or (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-aryl, the last 2 radicals being substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro, halogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$ and halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$, or

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom linking them form a 5- or 6-membered saturated, partly unsaturated or fully unsaturated ring which contains n heteroatoms from the group consisting of oxygen and nitrogen and is substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro, halogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$ and halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$,

or

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom linking them form a ring from the group consisting of benzothiazole, benzoxazole, benzopyrazole and benzoypyrrole which is substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of cyano, nitro, halogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$ and halo(C_1-C_6)-alkyl-$(Y)_p$.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is oxygen.

6. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R^2 , R^3 independently are each hydrogen or $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl,

or

R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen atom linking them form a ring from the group consisting of morpholine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, pyrrole, pyrazole and 2,3-dihydroindole;

R^4 is hydrogen, methyl or cyclopropyl.

7. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R^6 is hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylcarbonyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylsulfonyl, or is benzoyl or phenylsulfonyl each of which is substituted by v radicals from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, cyano, $(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkyl, halo-$(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkoxy and halo-$(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkoxy.

8. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

L is CH_2, $C(CH_3)H$ or CH_2CH_2;

R^{1a}, R^{1b} independently are each Cl, Br, NO_2, CH_3, CH_3SO_2 or $C_2H_5SO_2$;

R^2, R^3 are each hydrogen or $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl;

R^5 is methyl or ethyl.

9. A herbicidal composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound of the general formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

10. A herbicidal composition as claimed in claim 9 in a mixture with formulating auxiliaries.

11. A method of controlling unwanted plants, which comprises applying an effective amount of at least one compound of the general formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 or of a herbicidal composition as claimed in claim 9 or 10 to the plants or to the site of the unwanted plant growth.

12. The use of the compound of the general formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 or of a herbicidal composition as claimed in claim 9 or 10 to control unwanted plants.

13. The use as claimed in claim 12, wherein the compound of the general formula (I) is used to control unwanted plants in crops of useful plants.

14. The use as claimed in claim 13, wherein the useful plants are transgenic.